

Lulworth Camp Pre-School

Merlin Court, Lulworth Camp, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5QD



Inspection date

2 July 2015

Previous inspection date

3 March 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children enjoy their time at the pre-school. Staff provide a welcoming environment where children learn through play and exploration.
- Staff plan a wide range of activities linked to children's interests and learning needs.
- Children are confident and use a good range of play equipment and resources to extend their own play and learning.
- Staff know children well as individuals. They use a clear system, which includes parents, to assess children's progress and plan for their next steps in learning.
- Positive partnerships with parents and other providers enable staff to meet children's needs well, and provide consistency in care and learning.
- The manager and staff evaluate the provision to help identify areas for development. They review and add resources to continue to improve children's learning experiences. For example, they are increasing the natural materials and everyday items outside to develop children's imaginative and investigative play.
- Staff have a good understanding about safeguarding children. They know how to recognise child protection issues and the procedures to follow if they have concerns.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff sometimes miss opportunities to extend children's thinking through questioning and the use of resources as they join in their play.
- Staff do not always organise group activities well, such as snack time or stories, to encourage children to listen to other people when they are speaking.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- extend opportunities for children to think and build on what they know during their play
- improve the organisation of adult-led group activities to encourage children's listening skills further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's activities inside and outside.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation and interview with the manager.
- The inspector looked at a sample of documentation which included children's progress records.
- The inspector took account of parents' views obtained in person.

Inspector

Brenda Flewitt

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

Staff have a good understanding of the learning and development requirements. They provide activities and resources according to children's interests, and enable children to make choices. Children use their imaginations well to act out real-life situations, such as holidaying at a campsite and working on a building site. At the inspection, children were keen to add water to sand, independently fetching and carrying it from a low-level sink. Staff identified their interest and extended the play by providing additional water play where children experimented by filling and emptying various containers. Children learn to recognise their written name and some are able to confidently link sounds and write familiar letters. Staff encourage children's interest in nature. Children plant seeds and monitor their growth, and they learn about life cycles, including how a caterpillar changes into a butterfly.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

Children build good relationships with staff and one another. Staff help children to understand the feelings of others and to solve their own conflicts. Staff praise children regularly, which boosts their self-esteem and confidence. Children develop a good sense of belonging as they see photos of themselves and their artwork displayed. Staff promote healthy lifestyles well. Children become increasingly independent in their self-care as they learn practical skills, such as serving their own food. These skills are important for when they start school. Children have daily fresh air and exercise, using a variety of large equipment that encourages their physical skills. Staff involve children in helping to identify hazards in the environment to help keep themselves and others safe.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

The manager and the small team of staff communicate effectively to keep children safe and support good progress in their learning. Management and staff monitor children's progress well, which enables them to identify and address any gaps in their learning quickly. The provider understands the requirements and follows clear recruitment procedures for checking staff suitability. The manager carries out regular staff supervision to assess the quality of teaching and to recognise any training needs. For example, recent training has helped to develop staff's understanding of the way children learn, and has improved their skills in observing children's play. Partnerships with parents are good. Parents say that their children have progressed by 'leaps and bounds' since attending, particularly in confidence and language development. They appreciate the ideas that they receive to extend their children's learning at home.

Setting details

Unique reference number	153456
Local authority	Dorset
Inspection number	846730
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	12
Name of provider	Lulworth Camp Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	3 March 2011
Telephone number	01929 400642

Lulworth Camp Pre-School registered in 1992 and is run by a parent committee. It operates from the ground floor of a converted house situated within Lulworth Army Camp, Dorset. The pre-school is open weekdays from 9.10am to 12.10pm during school term time. A lunch club is offered until 1pm on Wednesdays. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two-, three- and four-years. A team of three staff work with the children, all of whom hold early years qualifications at level 3.

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